

Condemned to Die.

The San Francisco *Chronicle* of the 30th August says about Hutchings, the strangler: "A very large number of people assembled in Judge Wilson's Court yesterday morning and awaited with apparent eagerness the entrance of Frank Hutchings, the strangler, convicted of the murder of Nettie Sims. At a little before 10 o'clock the prisoner entered the courtroom in charge of a Deputy Sheriff and took a seat in the most nonchalant manner, although every eye in the room was turned upon him. Before the entrance of Judge Wilson, Hutchings conversed with his counsel and requested them not to delay the sentence any longer by taking an appeal. When the court convened, however, the defense moved to continue the sentence and appoint a commission to examine the defendant as to his sanity. The attorney stated that the defendant did not care to live, for the reason that he believed in the pernicious doctrine taught by Bob Ingersoll. The Court denied the motion. Mr. Hornblower then moved for a new trial on the usual technical grounds, which was also denied.

The defendant was then ordered to stand up, and Judge Wilson passed the sentence of death as follows:

"Frank E. Hutchings, you were informed against the murder of Nettie Hutchings, otherwise known as Nettie Sims. Upon your arraignment counsel was appointed to defend you, yet you pleaded guilty, desired to waive the time allowed by law, and then receive your sentence. The Court received your plea of guilty, received other evidence for the purpose of determining the degree of your crime, and that was determined to be murder in the first degree, but postponed your sentence for three days. Subsequently, and prior to the day fixed for passing sentence upon you, entertaining doubts as to your sanity, and being desirous that the question should be fairly investigated and determined, the Court appointed additional counsel to represent you, permitted your plea of guilty to be withdrawn and a plea of not guilty entered. Thereafter you were duly tried, convicted, and are now to be arraigned for sentence. What have you to say why the sentence of the law should not be pronounced upon you? [The prisoner—I have nothing to say.] I do not know what has been your private life, or previous character, or career. So far as it has been disclosed by the evidence in this case in connection with that of the deceased, however, it is important that I should have been made acquainted with it; but it does appear that your relations with the deceased commenced, and for some months continued in open violation of all law and morality, and finally culminated in your taking her life under circumstances which, in many respects, will scarcely find a parallel in the annals of crime.

The murder with which you are charged was cruel and unprovoked—not perpetrated by reason of a sudden provocation or sudden passion, but was a deliberate and premeditated act upon your part, the result of which was to send one whom you were bound by all principles of honor to protect unwarned to another world. For this crime you were tried before an impartial jury, against whom no charge can be made of want of attention or prejudice. Every decision that the Court could make has been made in your favor where there was the smallest doubt. You have been represented by able and learned counsel, who have used every exertion in your behalf. Everything was done for you in the trial that could possibly have been done, and yet the jury, after due deliberation, have found you guilty, and have failed to find any circumstances in extenuation or excuse which, in their opinion, would justify them in relieving you from the death penalty. And since no good reason has been shown why the judgment of the Court should not be pronounced against you, nothing now remains but the solemn and painful duty of passing the sentence which the law affixes to the crime of murder in the first degree, where the jury fail to designate such punishment at imprisonment in the State prison for life, which sentence is that you, Frank E. Hutchings, be taken hence to the County Jail of the city and county of San Francisco, whence you came, by the Sheriff, and there by him held until the execution of this judgment and sentence in due course of law. And the judgment of the law and the sentence of the Court is now here in open Court, in your presence, pronounced against you, which is, that you, Frank F. Hutchings, at the time and place to be designated in the warrant for your execution, shall, by the Sheriff, be hanged by the neck until you are dead,

and may the Father of all, in His infinite goodness, have mercy upon your soul.

When the Court concluded the thug sat down, apparently the most unconcerned man in the room. A few minutes later the manacles were adjusted by a Deputy Sheriff and the doomed man passed out.

When visited at cell 24 at the County Jail by a *Chronicle* reporter in the afternoon, Hutchings was in the act of accepting a cup of soup from a Chinese trusty, who was dishing out the fluid from a large tin vessel. The stranger thanked the Mongolian in an imitation of the heathen's language, and then bestowed upon the reporter a broad smile. When the visitor inquired as to the state of his health, he replied:

"Oh, it's improving every day. The Sheriff treats his boarders in grand style, and we who reside upon the first floor are waited upon by Chinese servants, and they are very attentive to our welfare."

"How do you manage to pass away the time?" was asked.

"I always have plenty of literature in my cell, and that together with cigarettes consumes that part of the time which is not taken up by my attorneys and the trip to and from the court."

When the subject of the case was broached to him the thug would shrug his shoulders and give some short answer. He said he did not wish to say too much, because it would probably be said that he was crazy, and then he would be sent to the asylum, which he would not want, because, as he expressed it, "Then I will get to be a crank as sure as —."

"Do you expect to die game?" was next asked.

"Well, he replied, 'you know I've never been through the mill before, and anyhow a fellow don't generally get a chance to go through twice, and of course I can't tell you much about it. I don't even know where they will build the trap. I was forgetting all about that, but I am going to ask very soon.'"

The condemned man then walked to the rear of the cell and the reporter left him. The date of execution will be set in the death warrant, which will be issued next week.

A New York Earthquake.

For the first time in years New York had an experience with an earthquake on Sunday, August 10th. According to the watches of most observers the shock occurred at seven minutes past 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and lasted ten seconds, although it was three-quarters of a minute before the earth resumed its normal solid condition. One gentleman states that the first perceptible shock occurred at 2:06:50, and lasted ten seconds; and that the earth was fifty seconds in "quieting down." There were three shocks, of which the second was the most violent, and the third was the weakest. The undulation seemed to pass from south to north.

The earthquake was felt along the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Maine. About New York no accompanying disturbance on the water was observed. In the city itself it created the liveliest interest. When the whole city trembled, and people heard the hollow, rumbling sound which came with it, the first thought of almost everybody was that an explosion had occurred. As soon as it was realized that an earthquake had produced the disturbance the shock became the topic of the hour everywhere.

In many of the thickly-populated tenement house districts the shock caused great apprehension. All over the city people ran from their houses, fearing the collapse of the building. They threw household furniture from the windows, or dragged their valuables down stairs after them.

The experience in Brooklyn, Jersey city, and other cities was similar to that in New York. On Long Island it is stated that the shock was violent enough to shake apples and peaches from trees.

Mr. Fenn, electrician of the Western Union Telegraph Company, furnished the following account of the earthquake as he observed it at Elizabeth, N. J.: "The earthquake commenced exactly at seven minutes past 2 o'clock p.m., and lasted a half minute. The direction was south to north, increasing from the start to the middle, and then decreasing in the same proportion without intermission. The pulsations were observed in a glass of water."

A man in Port Jarvis, N. Y., was cured of paralysis by a stroke of lightning.

A Parisian woman deals in ants. She sells their eggs for feeding pheasants.

There was property valued at \$8,800,000 destroyed by fire in the United States in July, 1884.

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We have to arrive per "Varuna" in August.

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Jan 1-83w

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3—Paid up ".....500,000
4—Fire Fund and Reserves as at 31st Dec., 1882.....1,274,661
5—Life and Annuity Funds.....3,855,529
6—Revenue Fire Branch.....1,107,124
7—Life and Annuity Branches.....434,758
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Capital of the Company & Reserve.....8,800,000

Reichsmark.....35,000,000

Capital of their Re-Insurance Companies.....45,830,000

Total.....Reichsmark 45,830,000

The undersigned, General Agents, of the above two companies for the Hawaiian Islands are prepared to insure Buildings, Furniture, Merchandise and Produce, Machinery, etc., also sugar and Rice Mills, and Vessels in the harbor, against loss or damage by fire, on the most favorable terms.

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Jan 1-81w

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July 1884

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